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PLAN FULFILLMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
FOR 1954 AND COMING TASKS FOR 1955

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During the past year, 1954 -- the second year of the Five-Year Plan -- workers, employees, and engineering and technical staffs of the Ministry of Electrification were faced with great, very responsible, and difficult tasks. The conference of the workers of the Ministry of Electrification held on 17 and 18 January 1955, estimated the extent of fulfillment of these tasks and summed up the forthcoming 1955 projects. Here summaries of the main estimates and briefs are given.

In the field of electrical construction, the Second Five-Year Plan entrusted the Ministry of Electrification with a large construction task. Capital investments for 1954 were 44.2% higher than those of 1953. The system of electric stations was to be augmented by a capacity of 42,560 kw and new substations and trunk lines were to be built. Regional electrification was to include new settlements, numerous TKZS (Trudovo kooperativni zemedelski stopanstva, Labor Cooperative Agricultural Farms), pumping stations, etc.

The 1954 capital investment plan was fulfilled 83.5% and 40,000 kw were added to the electrical production (not counting the electric stations set up at various plants) but including expansion of the V. Chervenkov TETs (Teplo elektricheska tsentrala, Thermoelectric Power Station), "Rositsa" VETs (Vodno elektricheska tsentrala, Hydroelectric Power Station), "G. Dimitrov" VETs, etc. Furthermore new substations were commissioned, and new settlements were electrified.

The following weaknesses should be noted in evaluating the activities of the building enterprises: the unrhythmical fulfillment of monthly plans; overexpenditure on labor, transportation expense, and additional expenses, resulting from poor use of working power; overstaffing and incorrect staffing of labor gangs, in terms of the regulations for existing labor norms; delayed delivery of materials and equipment; inadequate struggle for increasing labor productivity; incomplete exploitation of available machinery, as well as frequent and poor repair of machinery; and lack of intensive use of automobile transportation.

Planning is closely related to building. The overall planning and installations were carried out by the Energokhidroproekt organization, which achieved considerable success -- its plan was fulfilled 102.6%. In addition to the planning of the projects now being built planning was carried out for numerous enterprises to be built along various rivers, a general electrification chart of the country was made, etc. It must however be noted that Bulgarian planning is still lagging in terms of the need for electrical construction, and that changes in plans entail a considerable increase in cost. Planning is also delayed by constant additions and changes in the cost estimates, which in Bulgaria must be done in a rather complicated manner. Another negative point which must be noted is that thus far there has not been any type planning in Bulgaria. This is indicated by the fact that the planning of temporary buildings is not standardized, and standardization in stencilling and in the equipping of power poles, has not been completely carried out.

In 1955 the planners and builders will have to eliminate all the weaknesses which have previously existed in order to fulfill the targets laid down by the People's Economic Plan for this exceptionally important branch of the Bulgarian people's economy. They must bear in mind that in 1955 there will be twice as much electric power put into operation as in 1954.

During the past year power sources and the electricity distributing and producing enterprises had to deal with great and responsible tasks. With an average increase in production of 11.62% and 18.32% more electricity had to be produced than in 1953, i.e., work in electric power stations had to be intensified.

We must boldly state that individual teams have considerably improved their work compared to 1953, but the results achieved are unsatisfactory. The level of technical exploitation of machines and equipment and the regularity and quality of electric supply are in many cases far below the requirements. We showed particularly bad results during the first three months of 1954, and it would not be correct to place the responsibility for it on the severe winter and the lack of water. The severe winter caught our electric stations, particularly the thermic ones, unprepared for operation under severe winter conditions. The regional administration managers and stations knew winter was coming, and should have started early to prepare their work accordingly so as not to remain entirely at the mercy of nature. It can not be said that the lesson of the winter of 1953-1954 has been fully assimilated, because although numerous preparatory measures for winter operation of electric stations and electric equipment were envisaged and carried out, and after a commission of specialists confirmed their fitness for operation under winter conditions, the first snow fall of the season in December 1954, caused considerable disturbance in the country's electric supply.

During the past year the struggle against breakdowns, despite certain results achieved, was still not up to the necessary level. The analysis of breakdowns on long distance lines revealed that the causes of the poor conditions of the lines, their inferior maintenance, and the low degree of their use, lie in us, the people, starting with the planners, builders, and installers, and ending with operational workers. The picture would have been entirely different if the repairs which were made had been of good workmanship, if the degree of rottenness in the power poles had been measured annually, if resistance in the connections had been measured, and if, in general, good care had been taken of every insulator, bolt, and pole.

There must also be speedy and high quality repairs made on electric stations, where advanced planning, and prompt supplying with the necessary materials, spare parts and equipment, are of decisive importance. In the case of breakdowns, along with the measures taken for the improvement of the equipment of the installations, the plans, and the repair work, we must also pay attention to raising the labor discipline and technical qualification of the personnel, for a considerable proportion of breakdowns are due to faulty manipulations resulting from workers' poor qualifications or carelessness.

Success was achieved in decreasing the expenditure of electric power for personal needs by certain thermal power stations -- they have fulfilled their plans.

Considerable success was achieved in 1954 in the production of electricity — the production plan was fulfilled by 103-8%, marking an increase of 22% as compared with the 1953 plan fulfillment. New items were produced, such as 110 kw transformers and other related machinery, 500 and 1,000 kw amp electric generators, special electric motors, automatic telephone switchboards, radio sets, high tension cables, household appliances, high tension electric porcelain goods, triphasic electric meters, etc.

The considerable upsurge in the work of electrical industry enterprises is due to increased socialist competition among the working staffs, the struggle of these staffs to fulfill the pledges made in connection with the appeal of the 10 Sofia enterprises, and to improved work in the management of the enterprises themselves. It is also due to the joint efforts of the workers, foremen, technicians, engineers, and administrative workers to realize the decisions of the Sixth Congress of the BKP (Bulgarska komunisticheska partiya, Bulgarian Communist Party).

In 1955 the Elprom administration and the enterprises attached to it must devote more effort to avoiding the shortcomings of last year. They must do away with unrhythmical production (non-fulfillment of the plan during some months, and rushing the plan during others) and over-expenditure on the payroll. Delays in individual orders must not be allowed because this delays projects from being put into operation which are related to the production and supply of electricity for the country. A stop must be put to the practice, when the fulfillment of the production plan is lagging, of working on the better paid and less labor consuming projects at the expense of the less profitable and more labor consuming projects. Poor quality production must not be allowed, etc.

This year must be a decisive year in the improvement of quality. Particular attention must be paid to laboratory tests and the compliance with the established prerequisites and standards for exploitation. The fulfillment of the labor norms must not be done at the expense of quality, for this only wastes valuable materials. Work must be done rhythmically and without rushing, which as a rule leads to poor quality production. Machines and equipment must be kept in complete technical fitness. Self control must be maintained by the workers themselves in the process of production, and the supervisory activities of the organs of the OTK (Obshtestven trudov kontrol, Public Labor Control) must be increased.

The success achieved by the Ministry of Electrification and its departments during 1954 is due to a large extent to the activities of the organizations of the masses. The management of the party, the trade unions, the DSNM (Dimitrovski suyuz na narodnata mladezh, Dimitrov Union of People's Youth), and the societies of the Scientific and Technical Union have done much work toward the full mobilization of workers, engineers, technicians, and administrative personnel for the fulfillment of the plan. The success which has been reported here is theirs, as well.

During the current year, more experienced in our work, and profiting from our successes and failures, let us honorably fulfill the tasks entrusted to us by the party and the government.

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